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01-15

January 17, 2001

For Immediate Release:

EIU BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO CONSIDER ROOM/BOARD RATE HIKE

CHARLESTON – Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees will consider an increase in room and board rates for the 2001-2002 academic year when its members meet at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, in the 1895 Room of the University Union.

If approved, room and board rates for students living in Eastern's residence halls and Greek Court will increase between \$195 and \$210 per semester. Depending on the meal plan chosen, room and board rates will range from \$2,195 to \$2,460 per semester.

The four meal plan options each permit students a specified number of dining center meals per week, plus a specified number of "dining dollars" which can be used to buy extra meals in any dining center, make purchases at Eastern's TCBY and food court in the University Union, or provide dining center meals to guests.

Graduate students and families living in University Apartments are expected to see an increase of \$9 to \$11 per month with rents ranging from \$313 to \$354. The per-semester-cost for upperclassmen living in University Court apartments will range from \$1,890 to \$2,565 after

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EIU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

increases of \$55 to \$75.

In other business, trustees are expected to approve a revision to the Board of Trustees "Regulations," providing for public and university employee comments and questions at each board meeting open to the public. The proposed revision – a direct result of P.A. 91-0715, enacted by the Illinois General Assembly – calls for a period of time to be set aside for public comment at the end of each board meeting.

Individuals would be allowed up to five minutes for comments or questions, and only one person may speak on behalf of a particular organization. The total time for presentations would be limited to 20 minutes unless trustees move for and approve a longer period. Persons wishing to address the board would need to submit their request in advance.

Also under consideration will be bids for the labor and materials needed to remodel and expand space in the University Union for the housing of a new food court and design and planning services for the addition of sprinkler systems in Greek Court buildings, East Hall and 12 University Court apartment buildings.

Informational items to be presented to the board include an update on the FY 2002 Illinois Board of Higher Education budget recommendations and a round-up of Eastern's financial aid programs.

In its FY 2002 budget recommendations, the IBHE has proposed a \$4,493,200 (5.9 percent) increase for Eastern's general and income funds operating budget. This overall increase recommendation incorporates a 7.2 percent increase in general funds (state tax) and a 3.2 percent increase in income fund (tuition and fee) monies. Comparatively, Eastern's recommended general funds increase of 7.2 percent is the highest of all public universities.

In early February, the governor will present his FY 2002 budget recommendations for

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Eastern and the General Assembly will finalize the budget appropriation by the end of June.

In FY 2001, Eastern requested a \$13,705,600, or 18.7 percent, general and income funds increase. In turn, the IBHE and the governor both recommended a \$4,090,100, or 5.6 percent increase, for Eastern, and the General Assembly appropriated funding for the University at that level.

In addition to recommendations for Eastern's operating budget, the IBHE also makes capital budget recommendations. For FY 2002, the IBHE has recommended that Eastern receive \$44,090,700 for regular capital and capital renewal projects. Recommendations include \$40,003,000 (the amount requested) for construction of Eastern's Fine Arts Center; \$2,500,000 (the amount requested) for construction of the south campus chilled water loop, \$773,300 (\$750,000 requested) for the rehabilitation of the interior of McAfee Gym and \$814,400 for WEIU-TV infrastructure digitalization (equipment).

In FY 2000, 76.1 percent of Eastern's student body received some form of financial assistance – loans, scholarships, grants, tuition waivers and/or employment – from various federal, state and university programs. Financial aid in FY 2000 totaled \$44,189,197 at Eastern; 60 percent came from federal sources, 17.2 percent from the state, 18.3 percent from the university and 4.5 percent from other sources.